

scrutiny. I pray that You would grant them wisdom, grace, and the fortitude to execute their responsibilities.

Lord, You know, as a Nation, we are facing some of the biggest challenges in our young history. We ask for Your guiding hand. We seek Your guiding hand to do what we cannot do. We acknowledge Your ability to move us past our failures, our sins, and our humanity.

I pray that this session be a time of healing, humility, and laying down our differences to unite us, even as Your son, Jesus Christ, laid down his life for us, a greater purpose. Help our government officials to lay down their own agendas for the greater good: providing for the underserved, caring for the disenfranchised, and fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Bless and protect these men and women and their families from those who would be unreasonable and those who would try to harm them. We pray, Lord, that You would bless the United States of America. In Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MULLIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND GARY GROGAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Gary Grogan. Pastor Grogan has served as lead pastor of Stone Creek Church in Urbana, Illinois, for over 25 years, and today he is our pastor.

Thank you for leading the prayer.

Pastor Grogan and his lovely wife, Bonnie, have two children and five grandchildren. Both of his children also serve in local church ministry.

Under Pastor Grogan's leadership, Stone Creek has grown into a thriving, multiethnic congregation, leading many community outreach programs focused on justice and compassion.

Some of the many projects Pastor Grogan has led include fundraising to build educational community facilities, assisting those trapped in sex trafficking, support for returning war veterans from Afghanistan, and providing medical supplies and other necessities to victims of natural disasters.

The Bible says, in Proverbs 11:25: "Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Pastor Grogan has spent a lifetime refreshing and encouraging those around him.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to Pastor Grogan and his entire congregation in Urbana, Illinois, for allowing him the opportunity to be here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT, NOT UNEMPLOYMENT

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, today in our country, too many families and small businesses are struggling. Unemployment remains high; wages are stagnant; prices for everything from gas to groceries are rising faster than paychecks. The middle class is getting squeezed, and the policies from this administration have not worked.

Five years after the President took office, many Americans are still asking the question, Where are the jobs? Unfortunately, instead of helping to create jobs, the President is focused on making it easier to live without one. The House is focused on making it easier to find a job, to break the status quo, not to sustain it. We have passed dozens of bills that are sitting over in the Senate. Our focus is on ending this new normal, improving employment, not unemployment.

The President says he wants to make this year a "year of action." Sounds good to me. He can start by calling on the leaders over in the Senate to pass

our jobs bills. He can start by approving the Keystone pipeline and the tens of thousands of jobs it will create. He can start by leading on trade promotion authority that will help employers and provide more employment in our country. And he can start by working with us on education and skills training to give people more opportunities.

Let's make this a year of bipartisan action. I am sure the American people would welcome it.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

As unbelievable as it may sound, it is estimated that 20.9 million people were victims of some form of forced labor, including trafficking, in 2012. Most of these victims, sadly, were women and children. While we may believe or hope to believe that this is happening across oceans, it is actually occurring rampantly across the East Bay. I saw this firsthand when I worked for 7 years as a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, mostly with victims who were, too often, young teenage girls.

We cannot sit by as millions of people are exploited in this way—denigrated, demeaned, and disparaged. It is in this month that we recommit ourselves to ending these horrors of slavery and human trafficking once and for all.

My home county of Alameda, under the direction of District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, is doing its part. They run a coordinated effort called H.E.A.T. Watch to fight trafficking. In fact, District Attorney O'Malley recently announced a massive public relations campaign to draw attention to this issue and help victims. I have one of the posters, and I hope people will call (510) 645-9388 if they suspect trafficking is happening. With their hard work and that of people around the world, we can bring trafficking to an end.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Dream. Our country is the land of entrepreneurs. We get up every morning, put our boots on, and go to work. Americans should have the opportunity to have a good job and a good life rather than develop a life of dependency on unemployment.

As a business owner, I don't want my company to simply maintain the status